

## Resolution 53/8

### **Strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem focusing on illicit drug trafficking and related offences**

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Mindful* of the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,<sup>1</sup> the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,<sup>3</sup> as well as the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto<sup>4</sup> and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>5</sup>

*Recalling* the provisions of the 1988 Convention relating to the links between illicit traffic and other related organized crime activities,

*Welcoming* the fact that the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, on international cooperation against the world drug problem, adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,<sup>6</sup> as adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

*Bearing in mind* its resolutions 51/11 and 52/9, General Assembly resolutions 64/179 of 18 December 2009 and 64/182, and other applicable resolutions of relevant United Nations bodies,

*Recognizing* the need to strengthen national and international measures for improved cooperation in facing the growing complexity, diversification and evolution of drug trafficking and its linkages with related offences, as set out in paragraph 28 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,

*Reaffirming* that, in order to deal with all aspects of the world drug problem, there is a need for a political commitment to reduce the supply of and demand for illicit drugs, within the framework of an integrated and balanced overall drug control strategy and consistent with the commitments set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session<sup>7</sup> and reaffirmed in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, No. 14956.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>6</sup> A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

*Recognizing* the importance of strengthening international, transregional and regional cooperation to counter the world drug problem and other criminal activities related to drugs, as well as the need to reinforce the coordination of United Nations action, including through cooperation with specialized agencies, on the basis of a common and shared responsibility,

*Welcoming* the progress achieved by Member States within the context of a number of regional programmes on combating trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemical precursors,

*Noting* the national efforts to assist transregional cooperation in this field, notably the discussions at the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, in particular on the arrangements for improving cooperation between the States of Latin America and the Caribbean and the States of West Africa with regard to combating drug trafficking,

*Recognizing* the important work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in countering drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption and, in particular, in the area of capacity-building and assisting Member States,

*Acknowledging* the significant challenges faced and sacrifices faced by States in countering illicit drug production and trafficking,

1. *Reaffirms* that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach in supply and demand reduction strategies;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the world drug problem has to be addressed in full conformity with the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>8</sup> and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

3. *Emphasizes*, in the preceding context, the urgent need for Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation in order to counter the threat posed by the world drug problem, including the illicit cultivation of drug crops and the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs and their precursors, taking into consideration their links to corruption and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms and, in some cases, the financing of terrorism, and their negative impact on the stability, security and sovereignty of States;

4. *Recalls* that the three international drug control conventions, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>9</sup> the United Nations Convention

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<sup>8</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

against Corruption<sup>10</sup> and other relevant international instruments, constitute the international framework for countering drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, and encourages all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments and to adopt appropriate measures to effectively implement their provisions at the national level;

5. *Urges* States to take effective measures at the national, regional and international levels to coordinate their actions and intensify their cooperation in order to prevent and act against drug trafficking and related criminal offences, both national and transnational;

6. *Calls for* increased technical and financial assistance to be provided to Member States, in particular to those most directly affected by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs in order to ensure that those States have the capacity to prevent and respond to the threat mentioned in paragraph 3 above;

7. *Invites* Member States to support the regional programmes for combating drug trafficking that are supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

8. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including through its country and regional offices, has an important part to play in reinforcing the capacity of States to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting  
12 March 2010*

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.